

8. UPDATE ON THE CALL FOR PROJECTS

Background

At the March 2020 Transportation Policy Council (TPC) meeting the council approved goals, priorities and policies for the next Call for Projects. These goals, priorities and policies guide the H-GAC staff, Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) and the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Subcommittee in development of project selection criteria and evaluation methodologies for the next Call for Projects.

Current Situation

Since July 2020, staff has worked with the TIP subcommittee and TIP subcommittee project evaluation workgroup members to develop the project evaluation criteria and the project selection process. Staff will provide an overview of the proposed process, which will serve to guide selected projects to the appropriate planning or programming document. In addition to an update on the selection process, staff will also provide an updated final schedule for implementation.

Process

The Call for projects process will be used to select projects to be programmed in three different time frames:

- Short-range: Proposed projects that will begin construction or will be implemented in fiscal years 2024-2027.
- Medium-range: Proposed projects that will begin construction or will be implemented in fiscal years 2028-2031.
- Long-range: Proposed projects that are planned to be built or implemented in years after 2032.

All proposed projects will be submitted and evaluated in two phases: Phase 1 (pre-application) and Phase 2 (application). In the pre-application phase proposed projects will be evaluated for their consistency with the regional vision or 2045 Regional Transportation Plan. Additionally, the project's readiness for how soon it can be constructed or implemented will be evaluated.

- Screening criteria for consistency with regional vision (RTP)
 - Is the project listed in the RTP?
 - Was the project listed in any other regional or local plans?
 - Did the project go through any public review?
 - Does the project have jurisdictional support?
- Project readiness criteria for short-range projects that must begin construction between FY 2024 and FY 2027. (federal funding requests for construction phase only)

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- Environmental clearance is complete (for EA or EIS required projects), or underway to be completed at least 24 months prior to proposed letting date
- For Categorical Exclusion (CE) projects at least 12 months prior to proposed letting date
- ROW acquisition is complete, or underway to be completed at least 24 months prior to proposed letting date
- Utility coordination and agreements are complete, or underway to be completed at least 12 months prior to proposed letting date
- Utility relocation may continue while project is in construction
- If required, must have Army Corps of Engineers permits approved
- If required, must have executed railroad agreements

Proposed projects that cannot meet any of the above listed project readiness criteria will be considered as medium-range projects. Sponsors will be eligible to seek federal funding for project development phases in short-range (FY 2024-2027) for projects that will be built or implemented in the medium-range category.

Proposed projects that will be built after FY 2031 and are not included in the current RTP will be advanced to the predevelopment planning process for the upcoming 2050RTP. Staff anticipates the development of project evaluation criteria to be complete by March 2022 and project submittal process to begin in April 2022. The draft timeline for the project selection process is presented below.

Task	Short and medium -range (2024-2027 or 2028-2031)	Pre-development planning program for 2050RTP (2032-2050)
Pending Selection Criteria Questions	October 2021	April - September 2022
Funding Discussion	November 2021	
Readiness Program	December 2021	
TAC/TPC Information	February 2022	
TAC/TPC Action	March 2022	
Release Call Phase 1 (pre-application) (30day)	End of April 2022	
Phase 1 Evaluation	May 2022	
Start Call Phase 2	June 2022	
Submission deadline (45 days)	July 2022	
Phase 2 Evaluation & Ranking	August/September 2022	
TAC/TPC Information	November 2022	January 2023
TAC/TPC Action	December 2022	February 2023

Note: 2050RTP Deadline is April 2023

Action Requested

Information only.